

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Glass Room: Bangs Community Center**  
**Minutes**

September 17, 2009

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld, Maria Bulzacchelli, Nancy Gilbert, David Kaufman

BOH Member Excused: Sandy Sulsky

Staff: Epi Bodhi, Pamela Field-Sadler

Other: Attorney D.J. Wilson - Tobacco Control Director/MMA, Alan Root – Amherst Resident, Kathy Koplow – Clark House Manager, Richard Hardie – Northampton Resident, Nick Grabbe – *Daily Hampshire Gazette*

**Meeting opened at 7:09 p.m.**

**I. Public Hearing:** *Town of Amherst Regulation Smoking Disclosure in Multi-Unit Rental Residences*

**Present:** Attorney D.J. Wilson - Tobacco Control Director/MMA, Alan Root – Amherst Resident, Kathy Koplow – Clark House Manager, Richard Hardie – Northampton Resident, Nick Grabbe – *Daily Hampshire Gazette*

At 7:10 p.m., Ms. Gilbert made the motion, seconded by Ms. Bulzacchelli, to open the Public Hearing to receive public comment regarding the proposed *Town of Amherst Regulation Smoking Disclosure in Multi-Unit Rental Residence*.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Chairman Ahlfeld welcomed all in attendance; Board of Health members, staff, and Attorney Wilson were introduced to the audience. Chairman Ahlfeld provided a summary of the proposed regulation's intention, as well as explained the intended structure of the Public Hearing: the Board of Health's role will be to listen to public comments; a vote regarding the proposed regulation will not be taken; written comments will be accepted until October 1, 2009 and should be forwarded to the Amherst Health Department. The following public comments were shared:

- Service personnel who frequent some rental residences will not be protected against second hand smoke
- The suggestion was made to provide for another level of public discussion regarding the proposed regulation such as Town Meeting
- The Clark House is currently sealing the doors of smoker's apartments in an effort to prevent smoke from migrating
- The Clark House management would need time to obtain a lease addendum in order to comply with the proposed regulation
- The suggestion was made local landlords would like to see an all out Smoking Ban versus Smoking Disclosure

At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Gilbert made the motion, seconded by Ms. Bulzacchelli, to close the Public Hearing.

**Vote:** Unanimous

(At 7:33 p.m., Board of Health Member David Kaufman arrived at the meeting.)

## **II. Old Business**

### **A. Tobacco Regulations**

#### **1. Follow-up from Public Hearing**

The BOH followed up the Public Hearing with a discussion. The following was noted:

- Attorney Wilson clarified a Housing Authority can make its own regulation such as in the towns of Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge
- The BOH could consider additions to the current workplace regulations to include extended care and/or rehabilitative facilities
- Chairman Ahlfeld will consult with a representative from the Amherst Housing Authority
- The Board of Health will continue this discussion at the October 15, 2009 meeting

#### **2. Open Spaces**

The Board of Health continued their discussion regarding regulating smoking in outdoor spaces. Ms. Bodhi provided a summary of her conversations with other towns. The Board of Health agreed to formulate a list of town owned recreational spaces to be considered as an addition to the current Workplace and Public Places regulation. The Board of Health supports a 15 ft. buffer zone around the entrances to municipal buildings. Attorney Wilson suggested an annual letter be sent to businesses reminding them smoke is not allowed to migrate into an enclosed area. Attorney Wilson will draft language regarding the recreational spaces and buffer zone area for the Board's consideration.

## **III. Director's Report**

### **A. Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Application**

Ms. Bodhi received notification from PHAB the Amherst Health Department, Northampton Health Department and the Quabbin Regional Health District have been chosen to participate as a region in the beta test. Funds in the amount of \$27,000 will be available for administrative costs.

### **B. H1N1 Update**

Ms. Bodhi informed the Board the updates are changing constantly regarding H1N1. Next week, Ms. Bodhi and Public Health Nurse Keith Carlson will meet with area schools and pediatricians for discussion. Ms. Bodhi reported the Health Department will receive \$50,000 to administer H1N1 Flu Clinics. This week there was a successful Emergency Dispensing Site walk through.

### **C. Pelham Request**

The Town of Pelham has asked Dr. Kaufman to sign their standing orders. Ms. Bodhi and Dr. Kaufman will discuss this further.

**D. H1N1 Tabletop Exercise**

The Amherst Public Health Department is hosting a H1N1 Tabletop exercise for town department heads tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**E. Public Health Nurse**

Ms. Bodhi reminded the Board that Public Health Nurse Keith Carlson will be leaving his position in three (3) weeks. Ms. Bodhi's top priorities are to fill the Public Health Nurse position and plan/prepare for H1N1.

**IV. Agricultural Commission Liaison**

Chairman Ahlfeld explained he has emailed Ruth Hazzard, but he has not heard back from her yet.

**V. Schedule Next BOH Meeting/Agenda Closing Date**

**A.** The next BOH meeting will be October 15, 2009.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:04 p.m.**

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Epi Bodhi, Health Director  
**APPROVED: 10/15/09**